

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development-Gram Panchayats-Village Secretariat System in Gram Panchayats in the State-Further Guidelines regarding recruitment of line department functionaries-Orders-Issued

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MDL-I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.166

Dt: 30-10-2019.

Read the Following:-

- 1.G.O.Ms. No.110, Dated 19.07.2019 of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (MDL-I) Department.
- 2.G.O.Ms. No.217, dated: 20.07.2019 of MA&UD (UBS) Department
- 3.Recruitment Notifications issued 01/2019, dated 26.07.2019.

ORDER:-

Government have accorded permission to fill 95,088 Functional Assistants in Rural areas and 31,640 Functional Assistants in Urban areas (total of 1,26,728 Posts) related to 19 types of posts belonging to 13 departments, through open written examinations.

2. In the reference 3rd read above, notifications were issued for filling up of 1,26,728 posts and the examinations were conducted by the District Selection Committees from 1st September to 8th September 2019 in all the 13 districts. Out of 19,49,218 candidates appeared for 14 examinations, only 1,98,708 candidates are qualified in all categories. This constitutes 10.19% of the total number of candidates who appeared for the examination.

3. Hundreds of representations from all over the State have been received from candidates who have appeared for the examinations through e-mails, social media posts, phone calls, tappals, etc., for reducing the cut off marks in different social categories as the question papers were stated to be quite tough and as a result of which several meritorious candidates also couldn't fare well in the written examination. Besides, representations are received from various students associations and several news paper articles are published indicating the need for reducing qualifying marks so that justice could be done to the candidates.

4. Further, it is noticed that after completion of counseling/appointment process, more than 40% of the posts are remaining vacant in almost all categories and sub-categories. Some posts and categories show vacancies of even more than 50%.

5. It may be noted that, the State Government have launched the Village/Ward Secretariat system from 2nd October, 2019 to take administration to the doorsteps of the people and to deliver the Government schemes under *Navaratnalu* and other flagship programs in a transparent and corruption free manner. The State Government desires to make all the Village/Ward Secretariats fully functional in all aspects from 01.01.2020 onwards. In order to make all PRIs/ULBs vibrant institutions with full-fledged Secretariat functioning, filling of all the vacancies is very much essential. The large number of vacancies will adversely affect the intended objective of transparent, corruption free and effective delivery of citizen services through Village/Ward Secretariats. Hence, larger public interest demands immediate filling of the notified vacancies.

6. In view of the above, an Expert Committee was constituted to study and analyze the results of Village Secretariat Examinations and recommend suitable measures for taking further appropriate action on various representations received.

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7. The Expert Committee has submitted its report along with its recommendations to the Government. The Expert Committee in its report has, inter alia, opined that in some examinations, the papers set were so tough that they were out of the reach of the candidates, and hence representations from the candidates has certain element of truth and justification. The results pattern in 14 categories of posts, each comprising 8 social groups (OC, SC, ST, BC A, BC B, BC C, BC D, BC E) and total counting to 112 cases were studied by the Expert Committee and it was found that in 46 cases significantly large number of posts were vacant.

8. The Expert Committee has also analysed the role of negative marks and found that out of the 19.50 lakh candidates appeared for the examination, the count of candidates who secured less than 7.5 negative marks (< 5% of max. marks) is 1,05,917, which means that it constitutes 7.66 % of the total candidates, who have appeared at the exam. Similarly, 6.22 lakh candidates fall in the range of 7.5 to 15 negative marks (>5% to 10% of max. marks) and it constitutes about 32.87% of the total candidates. This means that the proportion of candidates who lost marks up to 15 (10% marks) due to negative scoring constitutes about 40.53%. The Committee further mentioned that, this percentage would go up to 78% if the range is up to 22.5 negative marks (15% marks) is also taken in to account.

9. The Expert Committee after thorough analysis came to the conclusion that a measure to offset and rectify the damage caused, is necessary and appropriate. The High Standard of Question Papers and the Role of Negative Marking has to be moderated and considering the staggering number of vacant posts, the committee considered award of Grace Marks to all the candidates @ 10 to 15% on the Max. Marks i.e (15 to 22.5 Marks) who have appeared in the written examination, as a judicious onetime measure.

10. Further, addition of Grace Marks @ 10-15% to all the candidates who have appeared in the competitive written examination shall not entail any adverse consequences in terms of the Marks awarded to all candidates, Ranking in the Final Merit List declared and published by the respective District Selection Committees, Selection of Candidates under various Social Categories, Roaster of Reservation etc., and the existing situation would continue except that, hitherto unqualified candidates, with this addition of Grace Marks shall move up the List, thereby crossing the threshold of selection and will occupy a place in the Merit List to be considered for selection. In that sense, addition of Grace Marks would certainly enable the Government to fill up such a huge number of unfilled vacant posts with immediate effect, thereby serving the public Interest.

11. Based on the detailed Study, the Expert Committee recommended for awarding 10-15 % Grace Marks on the Max. Marks i.e (15 to 22.5 Marks) to all the Candidates to fill up the large number of unfilled posts and to do justice to Merit of the candidates.

12. The Expert Committee report and its recommendations were put before the Committee of Secretaries/HODs for consideration. The Committee of Secretaries/HODs have gone through the report and after detailed deliberation have recommended that 10% grace marks (minimum of the Expert Committee recommendations) may be awarded to all the candidates.

13. Government have examined the report of the Expert Committee, recommendations of Committee of Secretaries / HODs and after due considerations of the material on record, it is decided to award grace marks 10% to all the candidates who appeared in the examinations for filling the notified vacancies, in larger public interest. As such, this will not compromise or dilute the merit and ranks of the selected candidates in any way. Huge turnout of applicants in examination indicates the fact that there was wide & fair competition. Hence, in exercise of the powers conferred by para 17 of the Notifications issued in the reference 3rd read above and keeping all in view the facts and circumstances in mind, the Government hereby order to award 10% grace marks to all the Candidates across the board who appeared in the examination.

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14. The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department and the Commissioner, Municipal Administration and Urban Development are directed to take further necessary action in this regard and report compliance to Government.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department, Tadepalli.

The Commissioner and Director, Municipal Administration and Urban Development ,
Guntur.

Copy to All The Spl. Chief Secretaries/Prl Secretaries/Secretaries of Line Departments
Concerned.

Copy to All the Head of the Departments Concerned.

Copy to All the District Collectors in the State.

Copy to: The PS to Secretary to Chief Minister, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

The PS to Hon'ble Minister, PR & RD and M&G Department, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

The PS to Chief Secretary to Government, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

The PS to Principal Secretary, PR&RD Department, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER